PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW CLAIMS

211.　A method as set forth in claim 208, including the steps of:

transmitting the message and the digital signature of the message from the sender

to the server, and

authenticating the message on the basis of the message and the digital signature

5　transmitted from the sender to the server.

212.　A method as set forth in claim 210, including the steps of:

transmitting from the sender to the server the message, the digital signature of the

message, the attachment and the digital signature of the attachment, and

authenticating the message on the basis of the message and the digital signature

5　of the message transmitted from the sender to the server and authenticating the

attachment on the basis of the attachment and the digital signature of the attachment

transmitted from the sender to the server.

213.   In a method of authenticating a message transmitted through the internet by

a server from a sender to an agent of a recipient, the steps at the server of:

transmitting to the recipient the message and an attachment including the identity

of the sender and the identity and address of the server and the identity and address of the

5   recipient, and

receiving the indication by the agent of the receipt of the message by the agent, and

including the indication of the receipt of the message by the agent in the attachment.

214.   In a method as set forth in claim 213, the step at the server of:

creating a digital signature of the message and a digital signature of the

attachment.

215.   In a method as set forth in claim 214, the step at the server of:

transmitting to the sender the message and the digital signature of the message and

the attachment and the digital signature of the attachment.

216.   In a method as set forth in claim 215, the step at the server of:

receiving from the sender the message and the attachment and the digital

signatures of the message and the attachment.

217.   In a method as set forth in claim 216, the step at the server of:

authenticating the message on the basis of the message and the attachment and

the digital signature of the message and the attachment, all as received by the server from

the sender.

218.   In a method of authenticating a message transmitted through the internet by

a server from a sender to an agent of recipient, the steps at the server of:

receiving from the agent a protocol selected from a group consisting of SMPT and

ESMPT protocols after the transmission of the message from the server to the agent of the

message by the selected one of the protocols, and

providing at the server a digital signature of the message, and

transmitting the message and the digital signature of the message from the server

to the sender.

219.   In a method as set forth in claim 218, the step of:

disposing of the message and the digital signature of the message at the server after

the transmission of the message and the digital signature of the message from the server

to the sender.

220.   In a method as set forth in claim 219, the steps of:

receiving at the server the message and the digital signature of the message after

the disposition of the message and the digital signature of the message at the server, and

authenticating the message at the server on the basis of the message and the digital

5   signature of the message received by the server from the sender.

221.   In a method as set forth in claim 218, the steps of:

providing an attachment including the selected one of the protocols,

providing a digital signature of the attachment, and

transmitting from the server to the sender the attachment and the digital signature

5   of the attachment at the same time as the transmission of the message and the digital

signature of the message from the server to the sender.

222.   In a method as set forth in claim 221, the step of:

disposing of the message and the attachment and the digital signature of the

message and the attachment at the server after the transmission of the message and the

digital signature of the message and the attachment and the digital signature of the

5   attachment from the server to the sender.

223.   In a method as set forth in claim 222, the steps of:

receiving at the server from the sender the message, the attachment and the digital

signatures of the message and the attachment after the disposition of the message and

the digital signature of the message and the attachment and the digital signature of the

5   attachment at the server, and

authenticating the message and the attachment at the server on the basis of the

message and the digital signature of the message and the attachment and the digital

signature of the attachment, all as received at the server from the sender.

224.   In a method as set forth in claim 220 wherein

the authentication is provided by generating at the server a digital fingerprint of the

message, and a digital fingerprint of the digital signature of the message, received by the

server from the sender and comparing the digital fingerprints generated at the server.

225.   In a method as set forth in claim 223 wherein

the authentication is provided as follows:

generating at the server a digital fingerprint of the message from the message

received by the server from the sender, and a digital fingerprint of the digital signature of

5   the message received at the server, and comparing the digital fingerprints generated at

the server, and

generating at the server a digital fingerprint of the attachment, and a digital

fingerprint of the digital signature of the attachment, received at the server from the sender,

and comparing the digital fingerprints generated at the server.